

PARKS, SPORTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **October 3, 2002**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Ginny Fields - Chairperson
Legislator Cameron Alden - Vice Chairperson
Legislator Angie Carpenter
Legislator Brian Foley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Legislator Bill Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino, II - Counsel to the Legislature
Mary Skiber - Aide to Legislator Fields
Neal Capria - Aide to Legislator Bishop
Tim Laube - Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Clark Gavin - Aide to Presiding Officer
Fred Pollert - Budget Review Office
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office
Denise Speizio - Parks Department
Stephen Raptoulis - Parks Department
Nick Gibbons - Parks Department
Bill Patterson - The Nature Conservancy, Fire Program
Greg Lauri - Parks Department
Alpa Pandya - The Nature Conservancy
Robert Conklin - NYS Forest Rangers
Lance Mallamo - Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, Executive Director
Steve Gittelman - Vanderbilt Museum
Theresa Sullivan
Pamela Schmidlin
Elizabeth Koerner
Other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Ana Grande - Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 1:10 P.M.)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We're going to begin the Parks Committee and we'll start with the pledge of allegiance led by Legislator Carpenter.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We have three cards. I'm going to begin with Theresa Sullivan, who is going to speak on I.R. 1953.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Hi. My name is Theresa Sullivan. I'm a Suffolk County resident. And I wanted to come down today to just share my experiences specifically at Coindre Hall with you to hopefully give you a greater insight into how much it really means to the community.

Really paramount to understanding my concern is understanding that my dog isn't just an animal to me. For those of us who don't have children or cannot have children, our dogs are our lives, they're our family, they are our children.

And I've heard many different arguments against having dogs run free anywhere. And the biggest one is, well, you know, you really should consider getting a fenced-in backyard. I have a fenced-in backyard. I walk my dog two miles every day, but nothing can compare to the play and the exercise that he gets by interacting with other animals. And so to me to have my child walk around the block for twenty minutes is not sufficient to tell him that I care about him and his health.

The biggest thing about Coindre Hall that I think everyone really needs to understand is that without play and interacting with other dogs, they are not socialized properly. My dog has learned a lot from interacting with other animals, especially in his youth when he was just a puppy, he learned his rank, he learned behavior that was appropriate and maybe not appropriate. He had a lot of firsts down at Coindre Hall, he learned how to swim.

And what it really becomes for me is a quality of life issue. If I did not have Coindre Hall to bring my dog down, I really honestly don't know what I would do. Like I said, a walk around the block really is not sufficient at the end of the day. And I think about sometimes not being able to bring him down there, I feel sort of

helpless. I, I honestly cannot even begin to tell you what I would do.

You know, we're all responsible dog owners. We clean up after our pets, we police each other. And I seriously think about it and I'm wondering what the biggest objections to having animals run free is. And I've heard several different arguments. I've heard animal feces arguments about, you know, contaminating the environment. I'm not a scientist, but I can tell you we pick up after our dogs.

The thing that comes to mind to me is the business that perhaps they're doing out of Coindre Hall with the wedding business and all

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that, and that would probably be a financial issue. What I would propose is I'd be willing to pay money, you know, aside from the green key and all that. I'd be willing to pay a membership fee, I'd be willing to -- I think everybody would do whatever it takes to be able to secure that property to enjoy.

I don't know if any of have you been down at Coindre Hall, but I can tell you it is a real community. We have barbecues, we meet at each others' homes, I've made a lot of long lasting friends at Coindre Hall. And I just think that to take that away would be really taking away a huge sense of community that I've gained in Huntington.

LEG. ALDEN:

Did somebody tell you that the dog run was going to be taken away?

MS. SULLIVAN:

Well, I am sort of confused. I've only been coming down to Coindre Hall since March and I'm sort of confused as to where we were with everything. I was not able to make the last meeting, but I have come to a lot of the H-dog meetings, and from my understanding they're trying to close it entirely or construct dog runs.

LEG. ALDEN:

Who is trying to close it entirely?

MS. SULLIVAN:

Well, apparently there's a loophole where as it exists right now, it really doesn't exist, that it was a pilot program that had been started I guess a couple of years back and it sort of fell through the cracks. As it exists right now, it's just a place where your dog can go during certain hours and run free without any dog run or without

any enclosures.

LEG. ALDEN:

The only thing I have is just an answer to the question that you posed, why some people might want to regulate dogs. I've been bitten four times by dogs and also one time by a dog that was on a leash where the neighbor said, oh, don't worry about the dog, and it went and ended up biting me. So that's a real good reason why some Legislative Districts or Legislative, maybe municipalities and things like that have laws that requires dogs to be on leashes.

And the other thing is, you're a responsible dog owner, a lot of people aren't. And I can tell you the couple of parks over by my house, the people that let their dogs and animals run in there, they don't pick up after them. So that's a huge -- and that can be, number one, a huge health problem. And the Chairwoman of this department knows all about that and put a lot of things on the record about that contamination and things like that.

But the other thing is if we have to start having County employees go in there and pick up after people that have dogs that go and run or let them run wild and things of that nature, that can be quite expensive. And in this time, we're in a little bit of a budget crunch as it is, so to hire people that would have to pick up after, you know, dog owners or dogs, that's not fair. And that's not fair to

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anybody that wants to use the park, you know, for what it was normally intended for.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Right. Well, I mean I absolutely can't control the actions of other people, but I do know that we do police each other. If my dog is, is, you know, taking care of business and I don't see him doing it, someone will walk up to me and say something. And really I guess the whole subject, you know, is pretty controversial. I'm just sort of concerned about Coindre Hall.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, we have to be concerned with all of Suffolk County.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

And unfortunately, Coindre Hall is very, very inconvenient for me to get to, I'm down here on the south shore in Islip, but the parks that are down here that I can get to look at, unfortunately I'm very, very disappointed with the people that bring their dogs in there, because the dogs are allowed to go about and really contaminate the place and that's not a fair thing to do either.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

With the idea that, you know, when you do that, what are you saying, you know, like, oh, okay, Suffolk County, go and hire somebody to go and pick up after me and my dog?

MS. SULLIVAN:

Well, no, but it just amazes me, I mean if you look, if you look in Suffolk and -- I'm sorry, in New York City, if you look in Chicago, if you look in San Francisco, there's thousands of cities that have very successful dog runs. So it can be done and it is being done. I mean New York City has more free space for dogs to run than any other place on Long Island, which is sort of ironic, considering that it's such a limited space. So I mean it can be done. There's, you know, there's ways and means to do it. If it means --

LEG. ALDEN:

Central Park is probably bigger than Suffolk County, isn't it or --

MS. SULLIVAN:

Yeah, but it's not just Central Park. There's like ten dog runs throughout Midtown Manhattan that aren't --

LEG. ALDEN:

They also have how many, there's ten or twenty million people, ten, ten, there's more than ten million people, right, in New York City?

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MS. SULLIVAN:

Right. But what I'm saying is there's no place on Suffolk County where you can legally take your dog for off leash exercise.

LEG. ALDEN:

You're taking your dog to Coindre Hall.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Right. Illegally, on the books, according to the law.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you still do it?

MS. SULLIVAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Why should I -- what I'm saying is if I get caught down at Coindre Hall with my dog off the leash, I pay a seventy-five dollar fine. So why not charge me a hundred and fifty dollars, and everybody else, the hundreds of people who would want to use the park, charge them a membership fee yearly and that would, you know, alleviate the cost of having someone come down to do whatever it is, you know, that you think they would need to do, to pick up, to maintain, to whatever.

I mean even if you look at West Hills Park, which I had brought my dog down to, that was initially the only park that I thought there was, it's just a big pile of dirt. I mean it's not maintained, it's not anything. So wouldn't you rather go down to Coindre Hall where it's beautiful and there's grass and water and --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Thank you.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Okay. I just didn't know if you wanted to answer.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The only thing that I have to tell you is that this bill will be tabled today and there has to be an environmental study that will be performed. And the fact that you just mentioned is that Coindre Hall does go down into water and that's one of the exact reasons why it probably is not the perfect place for it.

MS. SULLIVAN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Elizabeth Koerner, dog parks.

MS. KOERNER:

Good morning -- afternoon, actually. Okay. I reside in Northport Village for many, many years, a lifelong resident of the Township of

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Huntington, born and bred in Huntington Village, so I know Coindre Hall quite well. I guess you can already surmise I'm speaking to 1953.

In the Village I'm very active on many issues, and one issue very near and dear to my heart is the environment. I served for several years on the Harbor Committee. Our challenge there was to try and clean up the then polluted Northport Harbor.

And that fed into the LWRP local waterfront rejuvenation plan, and we were very successful there in declaring Northport Harbor a no-discharge zone. And many of you will know what that means, it means that the boats can't dump their waste into Northport Harbor. And the LWRP of Northport worked in conjunction with the LWRP of Huntington to declare and, you know, try to clean up Huntington Harbor.

And I am currently serving on the Parks Committee, which our duties are to plan and monitor the parks, which are right on the water in Northport.

And while serving on the LWRP, we worked with many, many State agencies, including the Long Island Sound Study and the, the State agencies, the environmental State agencies that monitor these things, and we did secure a pump-out boat. And we worked with the two yacht clubs in Northport, in the Centerport/Northport Yacht Club. And I believe Huntington Harbor did all the same.

And one of the major pollutants in the water is human waste going in with the boating population, and now that they have pump out boats floating around, we certainly hope that doesn't happen. And the harbors, both harbors are recovering.

Animal waste is another problem. We allow now dogs to go into Village Park. As you enter Main Street facing the water, the park to the right is Village Park. And the reason we started allowing dogs there on leashes was to discourage the Canadian geese that are a major problem for pollutants. And that seems to be successful, because the pollutants, the solid waste, yes, can be picked up, but not the liquid waste. They all become part of the water shed, which feeds into storm water runoff every time it rains.

Let me see here, I think I jumped ahead. We did secure many, many grants, one for the pump out boat. And this environmentally sensitive area is Coindre Hall right on the water. One rain, there it all goes into the now recovering harbor. This is a travesty.

I love dogs, I'm a passionate animal lover. My large collie took his last breath in my arms. I would no sooner hurt an animal than, you know, than a human.

Let me see here. The two connecting harbors, you know, there's no fence. If Huntington Harbor is polluted, Northport Harbor is polluted. And I don't have a problem with that, many people do and, you know what, it's not a problem, it's an issue. Solid waste, as I said, can, can be picked up, but not the liquids.

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And this young lady before me mentioned water, that's exactly it, there is water there. I'm sure where many of the other Suffolk County parks lie there is water.

And this weekend we had our great, excuse me, we had our great Cow Harbor Day and I witnessed myself many, many dogs. And I was asked by one of the Cow Harbor Day Committee persons what do you think would be an improvement or whatever from last year, you know, this year, last year, so forth. And one of the suggestions I first said, I said dogs. There were dogs all over the place. These dogs don't live in the village, they're all, they're all -- we welcome everybody, we include everybody, but there were more dogs there almost than people.

I witnessed my next door neighbor, who is eighty-five years old, that was down at her church, a dog ran out on one of those retractable leashes and she almost fell. I witnessed two other dogs having a fight on leashes, all these people mulling around baby carriages. I saw another leash go out right across a baby in a stroller and the mother was screaming.

Dogs belong home. They belong in the quiet, the cool. There were dogs there that were upset, they were thirsty, carrying on, they didn't know where they were, they were confused. This is a quality of life issue for the people that use the waters, the beaches. This is a safety issue. Dogs belong in their own environment. I would no longer subject my loving dog to Cow Harbor Day or diseases, etcetera, and be kind of, in a word, selfish and ruin the water for other people that like to swim in it. And never mind the fishes and the turtles

and the so forth.

And I find something very interesting. I'm a person that at this stage in my life does not need to be validated. I know where I'm coming from, I know where I'm going. But it was very, very comforting, I saw on Channel 12, Peter Kohler, the editorial, right, the editorial by him. And yes, he invited us to call in and I did. And I gave permission to use my name on the web site, I don't know if they did. But he said something that I've been saying a while, they want this, fine, buy your own, it's a private club.

To accept -- to expect the Suffolk County to provide you with this and this, where does it stop? Then the next person and the next person. That's it. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. Pamela Schmidlin.

MS. SCHMIDLIN:

Hi. Can you hear me? Okay. I'm basically here to talk about dog parks. I'm hear to talk about dog parks, hopefully in all County parks, if not half, a quarter to start out with, one would be nice. I know we have West Hills. If we could fix that up, that would be great.

Actually, I'm right down the road in Blydenburgh, we had a dog walk, everything went smoothly. There might have been a few little dog counteractions, not even little fights, maybe a few dogs, you know,

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playing roughly among each other, everything was fine. The owners were able to control them.

Yes, I had to clean up. I took my little doggie bag, I did have to clean up my dog, after my dog. I haven't seen -- I went back since, I haven't seen anything laying around. We do clean up.

Hi, Ginny, how you doing? I'm sorry you missed the dog park, by the -- the dog walk, by the way. I wish -- I did invite you and again I wish you were there, you would have loved it, you would have seen how people and their dogs do interact. Nice of you to listen to me.

That's basically what I'm here for. I'm here for my dog. They mean so much to me. My friends have their dogs, they're our saviors. We don't save them. I,I actually got both of my dogs from the pound,

from, actually Long Island, the North Shore Animal League. I love them. They saved me, I didn't save them. They -- okay, I'm going to try not to cry.

Just please, we think if you're thinking about voting it down, please rethink your position. I'm trying to make it as brief as possible. They just mean so much. Oh, and as far as cleaning up, I worked in Suffolk County parks, I've cleaned up after humans more than animals. I worked at Smith Point County Park, so I know what it's like to have to clean up. I've worked in the bathrooms there, they're not the greatest thing in the world, the humans are a lot messier than animals there. So, okay, thank you.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. By the way, I do know how dogs interact. I didn't have to see, witness it, I've had dogs, I do know.

Lance Mallamo and Steve Gittelman. You have a minute and a half each, no.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Steve Gittelman. Good afternoon. Thank you for meeting with us again. Thank you for having Budget Review join us. As requested by the Committee --

LEG. ALDEN:

It's not them joining us, it's just evidence that we do have speakers in the back and that people do know what's going on even when they're not at the horseshoe, because we didn't summons them, they just appeared.

MR. GITTELMAN:

It's amazing. Did you have a buzzer or something or just by virtue --

LEG. ALDEN:

No. It's by magic.

MR. POLLERT:

Just listening.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No, the microphones are on. It's Big Brother.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Fred was -- put together the meeting as suggested, and perhaps Fred will tell you what the outcome of the meeting was.

MR. POLLERT:

I'm in the process of drafting out a memo to all the members of the Committee. There was a meeting with the Budget Review Office, representatives of the Vanderbilt, Paul Sabatino, the Law Department and a series of questions were drafted out that were sent to Fleet Investment Services looking for some guidance with respect to benchmarks and criteria that should be used in the distribution of funds for the museum both during 2002 and in future years.

Specific questions were with respect to what was the immediate outlook in 2002. The trust fund responded with a memo on October 1st, which laid out responses to the questions. They then sent a letter on October 2nd saying that they had been misinformed with respect to the restrictions on the trust fund being lifted and they corrected some information that was included in the memo of October 1st.

We called Fleet Investment Services this morning. They're in the process of redrafting a third memo to clarify their responses to our questions and to provide some guidance to the Legislature with respect to investment benchmarks. The memo hopefully will be prepared in short order.

Their current estimates are that as a best case scenario, they will be able to distribute 1.2 million dollars this year with restrictions. The worst case scenario, they will be able to do a distribution of roughly one million dollars. A middle ground is that the museum will be short with a distribution of approximately 1.1 million dollars, so there will be about a one hundred thousand dollar shortfall.

Because the shortfall is smaller than we had anticipated based upon their sale of bonds, there does not appear to be the sense of urgency that a Certificate of Necessity would be required to change the investment guidelines prior to Fleet being able to prepare a memo to the Legislature with respect to responses to our questions of September 25th. They had indicated to me that they would have no problem being able to do a distribution of 1.2 million dollars if directed by the Legislature, even if they were directed later on in the year with three months left, they would be able to do the distribution of 1.2 million dollars if directed by the Legislator.

So clearly, it would be a benefit to have their response prior to having to do a Certificate of Necessity.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay.

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MR. POLLERT:

So that's the update.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Their response was predicated on the information that they had at hand. And the information they had at hand was the legislation as they believed it to exist. The reality of it is, is that the museum and investment counsel were never provided, perhaps we should not be provided, with the legislation as passed.

Now, it is true that there are public forums for us to obtain copies of past legislation. However, we did not know that the clause, realized capital gains within the calendar year, had been injected into the proposed legislation until the committee meeting in, I guess about a month and a half ago.

MR. SABATINO:

I just have to interject. I just dictated a letter to my secretary before I came to this meeting to Fleet telling them I'm absolutely astonished that we've had legislation on the books with the restrictions for seven years and they're giving us investment advice based on no knowledge of what the guidelines were, what the restrictions were. It's beyond my comprehension. I just wrote a tough letter saying I want answers.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I understand --

MR. SABATINO:

This is an absurdity. The memo on October 1st states that there's no problem based on the language of the legislation, and a day later they write a letter saying that we weren't aware of the restrictions, this must be a new development. The restrictions have been in the bill since 1994.

MR. POLLERT:

But more importantly, the restriction was also included in the RFP that they currently were awarded, so all the resolutions with the restrictions were included in the RFP. We have always sent them

copies of the resolutions approved by the Legislature and we have had monthly conversations with them detailing our concerns. So frankly, we were also taken back in our conversation this morning when he said he was not aware that there was a restriction, because we've been carboning him on the memos and have been dealing with him as well.

MR. GITTELMAN:

But as much as he was not aware, neither were here.

MR. SABATINO:

These are our investment advisors, these guys are getting paid from the fund and they wrote a memo on October 1st, I jumped out of my chair last night when I saw the new memo.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, but --

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MR. SABATINO:

I went ballistic. These guys are getting paid by us and they don't know what they're doing.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, I would even take it one step further and say to you that the museum, who is the recipient of these funds, was not aware of the change. Okay. So --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Doesn't it say in the resolution --

MR. SABATINO:

There's no change. Now, I have to one more time --

MR. GITTELMAN:

Now, wait a second, there is a change --

MR. SABATINO:

I'm exasperated because there is no change, there is no change.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I beg to differ with you.

MR. SABATINO:

There's no change, there's no change, there's no change.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, wait a second.

MR. SABATINO:

The law has been the same since from beginning.

MR. GITTELMAN:

No. The legislation as submitted by Legislator Cooper for this year had this clause deleted. Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

It wasn't approved.

MR. SABATINO:

How many times is this record going to be distorted. I'm going to say it one more time.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I'm not distorting anything.

MR. SABATINO:

The legislation has not been changed. The legislation, every eighteen months or every twelve months depending on the particular circumstances is simply recycled, re-enacted to extend the period of time. The only change that's taken place from the seven years was we jumped from one million to 1.2. and that happened about two cycles ago. It was one million --

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MR. GITTELMAN:

I understand your viewpoint --

MR. SABATINO:

-- one million, one million, and then it went to 1.2, 1.2, 1.2.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Have you read the old resolutions and the original --

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. We have copies of the resolutions as submitted. We were under the impression the resolution was passed as submitted. We were not at any time made aware that a change in the resolution had occurred.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

From when?

MR. GITTELMAN:

When it was submitted in -- in fact, we have copies we can show.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

From when?

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Let me just go back to --

MR. GITTELMAN:

Okay --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

-- when are you saying that there was a change?

MR. GITTELMAN:

What happened was is that we provided -- we helped Legislator Cooper draft the legislation.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

When? I need dates.

MR. GITTELMAN:

For this year's cycle.

MR. MALLAMO:

December of --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

2001?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

We had been brought, asked by Legislator Caracciolo of the Finance Committee to attend a meeting last October, I believe it was October 30th, asking us to explain, they predicted a five hundred and fifty thousand dollar shortfall for this year. So the prediction was made last year that there would be no gains this year for 2002. So we specifically addressed that issue in the legislation, realizing that

the prediction was there would be no realized gains in 2002, where there would be very limited, that we would have access to gains made in previous years.

We had researched that issue. It had been indicated that that was within the present investor laws of New York State. So we worked with Legislator Cooper to address that specifically. That was submitted. It was a time when his aide was changing, I understand, we were never advised that the draft was submitted, was changed until after it was adopted.

MR. GITTELMAN:

When we spoke --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But in the past seven years, hasn't it always been the same?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. But we -- what we're trying to say to you, okay, and we can be yelled over and we can -- what we're saying to you is that the draft as submitted by Legislator Cooper, and the draft, that we worked out with Legislator Cooper, was the draft that we believed was the final draft. Somehow, the draft as submitted was sent to investment counsel. We don't send out legislation.

MR. MALLAMO:

We don't do that.

MR. GITTELMAN:

We don't do that. Okay? Investment counsel and the museum has been going under the assumption that the law as passed was the same as the draft as submitted, because we were never apprised as to any changes in the law. Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

On that note, the -- that counsel, that's really inadequate for them to even operate on the assumption that a draft would be passed and no lawyer that I know would actually operate on that assumption.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I'm not speaking as to what investment counsel did, I'm speaking as to what we did. Okay. We're the fools, if you want to put it that way, because we've been going under assumptions --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But aren't they also, didn't they --

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LEG. ALDEN:

We're paying them.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

-- read the RFP, didn't they read the RFP?

MR. GITTELMAN:

You have two separate entities. Okay. We do not manage legislative counsel, you do. Okay. You manage as well. All right. We're coming before you and saying that we were not under the impression that the law is the way it is written. Okay. We are telling you that one of the reasons why we have not looked upon this as a crisis was because we have looked upon the ability of the fund to draw from realized gains without the limitation of realized gains within the calendar year.

You can put me on a lie detector test, that's what we believed. Okay. And the reality of it is is that we, we answered last year the possibility as projected by Budget Review that there would be a shortfall. Okay. And the way in which we answered it was twofold. One was to say that we can't absorb the shortfall, and two, that the following change in the legislation has to occur, and, therefore, we worked with the sponsor.

Now, in speaking with Legislator Cooper, he was not aware of the change. He may, or his aide may have been, but he was not aware of the change. Okay? So what happened --

LEG. ALDEN:

Legislation proposed it.

MR. GITTELMAN:

When he proposed it, he proposed it with our language, which there were two changes in the legislation I wish to bring to your attention, they're critical. One change was the language limited to realized capital gains. The second change was something the museum clearly would never want to do, clearly I doubt Legislator Cooper would want to do, is that the beginning of the funding would commence on the date of the passage of the bill.

Now, two years ago, that happened by accident, okay, where the beginning of funding occurred in the middle of the year and we had to get a C of N to reverse that, okay, because obviously we can't wait till the middle of the year in order to have the funding stream begin. Certainly the changes that were made in the legislation were not made by, you know, reflecting the experience that we had suffered at the hands of prior changes. So when Legislator Cooper submitted it, he was not somehow made aware, investment counsel wasn't made aware.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Wait, wait, wait. If anybody is a Legislator and they ask our counsel to draw up a bill, it behooves every one of the Legislators to read what they get back before they file it. It's got a cover letter saying if this is in accordance with your --

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LEG. CARPENTER:

It reflects the intention of the Legislature.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Absolutely, you probably know it by heart. So it behooves you to read your legislation. And if I put in a bill that, you know, knocks everybody's salary by fifty percent and I don't read it and it gets passed, shame on me.

LEG. ALDEN:

I did that, they didn't pass it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Right.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I understand. But part of the problem --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Everybody read it.

MR. GITTELMAN:

-- is that the legislation is -- we were not informed of the change.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But, wait. Did you not ever -- didn't you come here and say I'm here to speak on I.R. such and such?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, how could you speak on it if you didn't read it?

MR. GITTELMAN:

No, because there was no -- when we speak to you, if you go back in the record, we never acknowledged or, as far as we're concerned and even if you remember the last, there is no crisis.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No, no, no, I'm talking about the bill, not the crisis.

MR. GITTELMAN:

On the bill we spoke, we were in total support of the bill as written. The changes --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Total support?

MR. GITTELMAN:

-- were made after the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So on a corrected copy?

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MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. Which we never saw and were never apprised of, so we certainly couldn't respond to.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

What about Fleet, they never saw it?

MR. GITTELMAN:

They don't come to, before you to talk about legislation.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But didn't they do an RFP?

MR. GITTELMAN:

They did an RFP, but they go by the legislation as, as they view as passed. They're holding a copy which they think is passed.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No, no, no, no, no.

MR. GITTELMAN:

You ask them. I'm not -- we're all, we're all standing here looking at their letter of October 1st.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But an RFP has the documentation. And again, it behooves you when you're responding to something in writing to read what you're responding to.

MR. GITTELMAN:

What I'm -- I'm saying to you we would call Fleet during the year.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But, but --

MR. GITTELMAN:

And we would say to you, is there a problem, and they would say to us no.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Steve, an RFP is a request for proposal. If they're going to respond to that, then they have to read the proposal.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Another thing --

LEG.

Can we hear from Budget Review, I think they may be able to shed some light on this.

MR. POLLERT:

That's probably the reason why the Vanderbilt has been looking at me like I've got two heads.

MR. GITTELMAN:

That's right.

MR. POLLERT:

Because we knew that there was a restriction, we have been on a monthly basis calling Fleet monitoring the realized capital gains. In fact, they held up the distributions based upon realized capital gains. I can't explain why they didn't know, because we did send them

a copy of the adopted resolution, but I can understand why the Vanderbilt was wondering why we were saying we have a problem when they were under the impression that the restriction didn't exist. But I had been sending memos for, you know, month and month saying, because of the restriction of the realized capital gains, we have a problem, we have a problem, we have a problem.

So there seems to be a massive lack of communication or miscommunication or misimpression, whatever, but clearly at this point in time, however we got here, there is a restriction on realized capital gains which will result in their best estimate of a shortfall somewhere between one to two hundred thousand dollars.

They feel they do have enough time to make it up if the Legislature acts before the end of the year, but talking with Steve Malo, he did want to redraft his letter of October 1st and come up with some benchmarks now that he understands what the issue is.

MR. GITTELMAN:

On the other side of the coin, we went to the trouble to obtain a C of N for the purposes of bringing this to you, because your next meeting where you could pass this is November 29th. By that time, given that no one can predict what the markets will do, the museum could be in a state of collapse. We -- as much as Fred might say that investment review is saying that it could be a one hundred or two hundred thousand dollar shortfall, if it were a two hundred thousand dollar shortfall, and if you were meeting on November 29th, and if on say December 5th the money would come, we would have missed two payrolls. Okay?

So he's not looking at the operational side of the museum, he's saying I can get the money to them, we're saying it will be too late. So what we're saying is given the confusion, given the circumstances as they stand, we went to the trouble to go to the County Executive's Office, we went to Legislator Cooper to get a revised piece of legislation, we're asking you to consider it and let us move forward on this, because otherwise because of the calendar, we could, you don't know what the stock market's going to do, and I'm sure Fred Pollert would agree with me, that if he knew, none of us know.

MR. POLLERT:

I wouldn't be here.

MR. GITTELMAN:

He wouldn't be here, okay. So we understand that as a precautionary measure, because it could be a crisis, and since there is no

opportunity to revisit it until November 29, we're asking that it be moved on now. We've obtained a C of N for that purpose.

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MR. SABATINO:

My suggestion, Madam Chair, with your permission, is that maybe we can add it to the special meeting notice for the day we deal with the operating budget, which would be November 7th or 8th. And we've done that in the past where we get other financial or budgetary related issues on that date, we kind of catch all, and I can add it to the proposed notice.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because we don't have anything in front of us.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah, we can't act on anything now. Whether you have it there or not, it's not part of our agenda, we can't legally act upon it.

LEG. CARPENTER:

The CN can only be acted on at the full legislature.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

On Tuesday. We can't act on a CN.

LEG. CARPENTER:

At the committee.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

It's a Certificate of Necessity, which means it's got to be timely and it's an emergency then. It's not an emergency now, because we don't have it.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Is there any way of acting on it on Tuesday?

LEG. CARPENTER:

If the County --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, I guess --

LEG. ALDEN:

He's got to send it over, the County Executive.

MR. GITTELMAN:

We, we --

LEG. CARPENTER:

If the Presiding Officer --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

It's up the full Legislature, all eighteen, yes.

MR. SABATINO:

Two things. One, you have to get that new letter to explain how the screw up happened, which may or may not happen in a day or two. If it happens in a timely fashion, then if twelve Legislators were willing to support a CN, you could do it on Tuesday.

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If you want to wait and analyze it, you can wait until November 8th, which it would be -- or the 7th, whatever that day is going to be for the budget meeting.

MR. POLLERT:

Just reviewing a draft, it appears that the resolution just deals with 2002. I thought that they were going to be requesting a CN for 2002 and future years.

MR. GITTELMAN:

No.

MR. POLLERT:

So it appears that this just deals with 2002. I didn't know that the museum was going to be requesting a CN and actually get a CN this early. So I know that we had discussed it, I didn't realize that the County Executive was going to be granting a CN.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. So why don't we see what happens Tuesday.

MR. GITTELMAN:

It was the product of our discussion in our meeting that we would pursue a CN.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. So we'll, we'll all review it. It's, nothing here is going to make any difference, because it's just four of us.

LEG. FOLEY:

Could you have the Executive's Office speak on the issue, or no, as to why they're going to be granting a CN?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Are they here? Yes, they are here.

LEG. FOLEY:

Give us an answer at to -- or if they are going to grant one, what will the bill look like, if they know already what the bill is going to look like, so we'll be prepared.

MS. DE ANGELO:

Hello. Nicolle DeAngelo, County Executive's Office. As of right now, we're just in the preliminary of it. We haven't decided whether or not we're going to grant a CN. As far as the bill goes it's, you know, it's still in the works, if anything. There is definitely no decision made at this point as to what's going on.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So we can only act upon this on Tuesday if it, if it's before us.

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Okay?

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. But thanks for your input on it also, it makes it much clearer now to us.

MR. MALLAMO:

We appreciate the opportunity to have you listen to our story.

CHAIRMAN FIELDS:

Legislator Carpenter has something.

MR. MALLAMO:

Just at the last meeting I had promised you a videotape of our capital projects, could I distribute that to you today?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I have a question before you leave, Lance. How are we doing with grants, have we been applying for them, how successful have we been?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have a steady stream of grants. And I'm happy to report since Monday we had a five thousand dollar grant from Target Corporation and this morning we had an additional five thousand dollars from Chase Bank. So we have over twenty-five applications pending right now.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Are they of a little bit greater magnitude than the five thousand, I hope?

MR. MALLAMO:

Anywhere from fifteen hundred to two hundred -- to five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Those are the applications we have pending.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Also, are you planning any more fund-raising events? And what I'm thinking of in particular, it preceded your tenure, but it happened when I was a Trustee, we had organized design, kind of like a designer showcase, but really it was a holiday boutique. And it was pretty successful and it never happened anymore and I know they're doing it at Deepwells. Have you thought about doing it there?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have thought about it. Actually, one of our Trustees, Donna Periconi, spoke to me last night about the possibility about doing such activities at Normandy Manor. The problem with it, the main mansion is we have to relocate all the collection pieces in the house and that's a massive undertaking to do that. But we are pursuing, investigating how we would do that.

LEG. CARPENTER:

When we did it, it was in the Lancaster Room and some of the rooms upstairs and in the hallways, in that part of the building. What's in there now? Because they were empty, if I remember correctly.

MR. MALLAMO:

That is now our collection center, that's where everything is stored, our archives, all the furnishings, paintings.

LEG. CARPENTER:

What about the upstairs from that?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's what I'm talking about.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Oh, okay.

MR. MALLAMO:

Downstairs is the -- we have our Egyptian mummy.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

The Lancaster Room is the room that we have accessible for handicap to come to watch a video of the museum rather than going on a house tour. Our guides' office is there, because we have opened up what used to be the business office of the museum, that is now an interpretive area, the servants' wing. So that's now included on our tour where it previously wasn't. But we are definitely looking at that issue.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, I would really urge that you do that, because it's the kind of thing that brings people to the museum who might not otherwise have thought about going there.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Like someone going to the tree thing that they do in Nassau County.

MR. MALLAMO:

Festival of trees.

LEG. CARPENTER:

You, know, right, exactly.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm familiar with that. We do have a very extensive holiday festival planned this year with five separate activities that will take place. We're also doing a first time Halloween weekend festival --

LEG. CARPENTER:

That's a good idea.

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MR. MALLAMO:

Which corresponds with Mr. Vanderbilt's birthday, so it's a combination Halloween/birthday party, very different because the time period is different, but similar to the festivals that we always have at Deepwells Farm in Saint James two weeks earlier.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So, will you be having craft vendors and things like that there?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes. And we'll have storytellers and musical entertainment.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. That's good.

MR. MALLAMO:

And different activities. Also, our Gershwin event this year netted us about twenty-three thousand dollars more than the event last year, so that was a very successful event in spite of the torrential rain we had in the three hour period of the party.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can I ask a question?

LEG. FOLEY:

I'm glad the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the party.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I understand that, that there is an auction that Friends of Long Island Heritage does at Coindre Hall occasionally. Do you know what they're auctioning?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes. Those are -- if it's the same program that was there when I was

in the Parks Department, they contract with a private auctioneer who brings furnishings in. Some are original antiques, most are reproductions. And they're just brought in for the day or the weekend and auctioned off. And I believe he's out of Stanford, Connecticut, and he does this in many, many different places around the tri-state area, if it's the same vendor, and I assume it is, because I've seen the ads recently.

LEG. ALDEN:

The ice cream guy just came in, talking about vendors.

MR. MALLAMO:

Certainly it's not furnishings from Coindre Hall, I can assure of that. I could also say that many of the antique furnishings in Coindre Hall that are now there permanently, came as a result of that auction. Things that didn't sell that the guy just left for friends or that were purchased at auction through that. So if you go in and see the mirrors and credenzas and the different pieces in the dining room, those were obtained in that fashion.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

What do you think about dogs at Coindre Hall?

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm --

LEG. ALDEN:

To put you on the spot.

MR. MALLAMO:

The jury is still out on that with me.

LEG. FOLEY:

What would the Commodore do, let's put it that way, what would the Commodore do?

MR. MALLAMO:

Years ago I commented on it, had recommended it in the particular area. I wasn't in favor of it running loose across the property, I do recognize the need for it.

One of the interesting things I will tell you, if it adds anything to the debate, at the Vanderbilt we have a horrendous problem with geese. Our property is raked three times a day.

LEG. ALDEN:

One dog --

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we actually hired the border collies to come and patrol, but we couldn't afford it any longer, so we discontinued that. And I think it's a health menace, I have thousands of school kids walking through this daily. And I was at Coindre Hall recently and I was like, where are the geese, how come they don't have any geese, and it started to dawn on me --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Because they have dogs.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But what about the fact that I went to Coindre Hall and the dog was loose and came running up and almost knocked my husband down and I heard that --

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm not in favor of dogs running loose on County property, I don't, I don't think it's safe.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

What about the pollution?

MR. MALLAMO:

I've been bitten by dogs myself. I think if it were monitored properly and people did take the responsibility to clean up to their dogs, I can't speak to the liquid waste, but if it were a fenced area --

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'm just wondering why it's so important to, you know, my kids are twenty-five and twenty-four, and when one of the young ladies said, one of the young ladies said that dogs have to socialize, but yet she's got a fenced-in yard, why can't the dogs socialize in her fenced-in yard, just like my children did? I didn't drop my kids off at a park and say, go ahead, go run around, socialize. I taught my children how to socialize in my yard, in my home with children that I wanted them to socialize with, not, you know. Anyway, it was just a, I just wondered what you thought.

What about the pollution factor?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I can tell you I was out in California in April, I saw a dog run in San Mateo right on the banks of the San Francisco Bay, it looked very clean to me. This is only my first person, I'm not an expert in this area myself. But, you know, the people there seemed to be taking responsibility for what they were doing.

And as a pilot program, you know, space in Suffolk County is becoming so much at a premium, particularly in western Suffolk County, that the spaces aren't there. So I think, I know when this came up at CEQ a couple of years ago, it was voted down. I think I probably would have supported something like that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, I think it was voted down because of the environmental problems and the pollution factor.

MR. GITTELMAN:

May I make a suggestion?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

You certainly may. Whether we'll take it or not --

MR. GITTELMAN:

It's not difficult.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah, let's bring it to the Vanderbilt.

MR. GITTELMAN:

No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Why?

MR. GITTELMAN:

If a baseline fecal coliform counts were to be produced along the shoreline, and you made it a performance related function and you said look, this is the testing that we have, and these are not difficult tests to get performed I'm sure within County, one County department someplace we could do these tests. You set up a baseline, this is what we've got seasonally, this is what we're experiencing here, there are no sewage out falls near the area, here's your baseline. If it

starts to go above this, okay, for any sustained period of time, that's the end of the program.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, I don't know that you could do that, because the dogs are already going to the bathroom, so it's already degraded water. And when you look at the Long Island Sound study and the Peconic Estuary plan and the South Shore Estuary Reserve comprehensive management plan, one of the major problems that they all have are the fact that dog feces do cause a tremendous amount of pollution with runoff. And when I visited the area, I saw this huge mountain really.

MR. MALLAMO:

Could I ask a question? I'm not sure what the rule is, but when I was in the Parks Department the rule was you could walk a dog in the park if it were on a leash.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But I watched a guy walk two German Shepherds, the dogs went to the bathroom and he kept walking. So what does the leash have to do with them going to the bathroom?

MR. MALLAMO:

I guess my question is right now is there a requirement, do people who have dogs on leashes clean up after their dog?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

No. I think the requirement is that they're supposed to clean up after the dogs. Do they all? No. Do some of them? Yes.

MR. GITTELMAN:

It sounds like a real money generator for Code Enforcement.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, if we had more Parks police and we could afford to pay for Parks police out of Parks funding.

MR. GITTELMAN:

You might be able to break even and do better.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

We don't have enough Parks police, and that's part of the problem. Okay. I just wanted to know what you thought.

MR. MALLAMO:

I don't want to belabor the point, but I think the issue I'm trying to raise is maybe it's not the dog run issue, maybe the issue is that the existing dogs that you have on leashes have to be cleaned up. Because I don't think that's occurring right now and that's --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Well, it's not occurring with --

MR. MALLAMO:

-- and that could be what you're seeing, Legislator Alden, on the South Shore parks where there aren't dog runs and people are just

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under the existing rules of the Parks Department, just walking away from the situation.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

The existing rules of the Parks Department are that all dogs are illegal on all Parks property.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

That's the existing --

LEG. ALDEN:

Including the Vanderbilt.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

It's illegal, so -- except for campgrounds and at our beach --

MR. MALLAMO:

That wasn't my understanding. When I worked there they had to be --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Always, always.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Please don't take issue if we hire another dog to chase the geese.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you very much. Okay. We have a presentation by Bill Patterson and Nick Gibbons. I believe both are participating on, I don't know

if you're actually calling it prescribed burns or you call it --
While you're getting set up, I'm going to run out real quick. I'll be
right back.

I know Bill Patterson and Nick Gibbons, I don't you.

MR. CONKLIN:
Bob Conklin.

CHAIRMAN FIELDS:
Bob Conklin from -- speak into the microphone.

MR. CONKLIN:
Bob Conklin, Chief Forest Ranger for the Department of Environmental
Conservation.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Okay. Now the Stenographer has it. Okay. Maybe we could ask Tim if
he could just go over to that wall and hit a couple of switches down
so that we can see it more clearly. I think the one that's on
shouldn't be on, the one in the middle should be off and maybe the
other ones could be on. Okay. Can you see? Just light a match
if --

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MR. PATTERSON:
We don't need any light. We have plenty of light, so if you want to
turn it down further, feel free to do that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
I think it's pretty -- in fact, it's clearer today than it was
Tuesday.

MR. PATTERSON:
Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. The title of
our presentation is Fire and Prescribed Fire in Suffolk County. My
name is Bill Patterson, I'm the Pine Barrens Project Director for the
Nature Conservancy, and I'm joined today by Nick Gibbons of Suffolk
County Parks, and as just previously stated, Bob Conklin of New York
State Forest Rangers.

There are a number of other partners also, which I would like to
introduce who were not able to join us today, Mark {McGinney,} for
instance, of Fish and Wildlife Services was with us on Tuesday when we
spoke to the ELAP Committee. But partnerships are really key to fire

management throughout Suffolk County, wild fire management. And Suffolk County parks, obviously being a very key stakeholder and participant with major land holdings. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, with their extensive expertise and experience and also land holdings, they have extensive experience in wildfire and prescribed fire management.

Also, US Fish and Wildlife Service is an important cooperator, Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Central Pine Barrens Commission, and New York, excuse me, New York State Parks, excuse me, as well as a major landholder.

The goal of the presentation today is a general one.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can I interrupt for one second? Why does Brookhaven National Lab participate in it?

MR. PATTERSON:

A very good question. They have dedicated five hundred acres as a natural area, as a preserve, and US Fish and Wildlife Services manages that land. And they also own substantial areas that are not designated as protected that are at risk to wildfire. So they have a very strong interest in wildfire and prescribe fire management.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Thanks.

MR. PATTERSON:

Our goals are to raise an important issue with you today and talk to you about, first and foremost, prescribed fire and ongoing cooperation that the Nature Conservancy, Suffolk County Parks, DDC, all these partners are an involved in so that you're aware of it and fully informed.

The second is to give some of the background about why wildfire is

such an important process in Long Island natural areas. And thirdly, to just, and Nick is going to do this for us today, walk through what exactly is a prescribed fire and how is one conducted. And finally, we would be available to answer any questions that all this generates as well.

I want to bring to your attention a couple of handouts that Alpa

passed around. There are some that everybody got, which is the wildfire cooperators brochure.

There is also a very interesting article that was published in the New York Times about wildfires out west where a prescribed fire played a very significant influence in the result. And I strongly encourage you to read through that interesting article, because it gives a very interesting social perspective of people's reactions to prescribed fire and their interaction with wildfire. I'll excuse you if you look down and read it during our presentation, it's that important that you read it, I know you're all busy and may not have time to get to it afterwards.

We've also passed out a video entitled, "Wildfire Safety and Awareness," and that was put together by the Wildfire Task Force. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of those available, so we just left a single copy of that with the Committee that you could share.

If anybody is interested in an extra copy, I do have forms that you could fill out and submit to the Pine Barrens Commission and have your own copy to share with constituents.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I'll share it with the rest of the committee. They can all take turns looking at it.

MR. PATTERSON:

Okay. Thank you. And then a couple of other general TNC publications that I've left as well that you can take a look at at your leisure.

Just briefly, the Nature Conservancy, many of you are familiar with, our mission is to preserve the plants and animal and natural communities that represent the biodiversity of life on earth. And we do that by protecting that lands and waters that they need to survive.

Most of you probably are familiar with us in our land acquisition efforts, prioritizing and actually conducting real estate acquisitions for ourselves and for the County and for the State on their behalf.

What I want to bring before you today, in addition to the partnership is to explain a little bit about the experience in land stewardship and particularly prescribed fire that the Nature Conservancy has developed through our extensive land holdings.

Also, I would just add a couple of background points. The Nature

Conservancy has been in existence fifty years now. We're an international non-profit and non-governmental organization with more than a million members now, and thirty thousand of those live right

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here on Long Island. So we have a very active and strong base of support for the environment.

And also I want to point out that with our partners, of course, we've protected more than sixty thousand acres of land on Long Island, many of those acres are County parkland now.

Just a little bit about fire, the fire management program that the Nature Conservancy has developed. We've been conducting prescribed burns throughout the country since 1961, so we've been at this almost forty years and have a depth of experience to draw. And we have developed a nationally recognized program first and foremost in fire science and in the effects of fire, but also in the area of training, of crew safety and prescribed fire techniques and also experience in actually putting fire on the ground, the application of prescribed fire.

Right here on Long Island we have on the Nature Conservancy staff a full-time fire management specialist, Tom Dooley, who was not able to join us today, but gave a presentation on Tuesday to the ELAP. And we have fifteen staff who are trained in prescribed fire also.

Just to give an example of the resources that our national organization can provide, there was recently a national fire plan approval of 2.1 million dollars that was given to the Nature Conservancy to take to local communities and local situations and it was it divided up and I think it states very -- it speaks very strongly to the importance of fire on Long Island and in Suffolk County, that the Long Island Central Pine Barrens were chosen as one of five demonstration sites from across the nation with such well known hot spots as Oregon and New Mexico to receive, and we will receive forty thousand dollars over two years which we are sharing with our partners and to develop new tools for planning in both prescribed fire, but also wildfire preparations. So this has been a very valuable tool that was brought to us and it's something that we're working on in partnership.

I'd like to switch gears a little bit and talk about the history of fire on Long Island and I will just -- there are people who could speak to this much better than I could, but -- and could give

presentations, you know, for an hour at a time, but I want to hit the general points about wildfire on Long Island and its history.

I'd like to kind of divide it up into three eras, if you will. The first being the pre-European settlement, the era of Native American land use. It's well established that Native Americans used prescribed fire. They didn't call it such, but they used fire as a tool to do a number of things. It included increasing their food supply and hunting, forage for animals that they hunted, it facilitated travel for them and it promoted security around their settlements by giving them better vistas. And so it's a tool that they used over periods of probably thousands of years and was extremely influential in shaping the landscape that we have now.

The pattern of fires probably shifted quite significantly at the time of European settlement. What happened is that there was land clearing

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through the use of fire and other techniques. And also, fire was used to enhance grazing. It's quite likely that the number of fires on the landscape increased dramatically during early settlement periods.

Also, railroads contributed to fire ignitions. And there was a single fire in the year of 1862 that burnt from Smithtown to Hampton Bays and covered nearly a hundred and ten thousand acres in a single incident, larger than the entire Pine Barrens designated area now. It just gives you an idea of the scope, the historical scope of fire.

And finally, I think we've entered into a third era now, and it's one where our landscape has been fairly fragmented by development, roads, housing developments, and the fires that do start are, there's also a very strong and active fire suppression presence for public safety and so the fires tend to be much less significant over the last fifty to a hundred years and it is having an influence in changing the characteristic of our landscape.

I don't think anybody needs to be reminded of the fire, the Sunrise fires of 1995. There is a graphic and vivid example that we are -- quite a remarkable picture that we are still living with, with fire as a dominant presence on our landscape.

Just to talk briefly about some of the places that have been influenced by fire and shaped by them, and first and foremost would be the Central Pine Barrens. Also, examples are found at Montauk grasslands, where the grasslands were formed not only by grazing, but

a fairly regular fire to maintain them. Grasslands in Sayville are also a unique natural community. The Oak Brush Plains, which is owned and managed by the New York State DEC, as well as Hempstead Plains in Nassau County.

And I just would make the observation that Pine Barrens grasslands and savannas, which all of these locations that I've just mentioned are examples of these, are now one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. And one of the foremost reasons for that is that there is significantly less fire on the landscape over the last fifty to a hundred years, which has been a very important factor in maintaining these.

Just to run through some slides of those sites I just mentioned, here is a picture at Theodore Roosevelt County Park out at Montauk and the remnant grassland that is out there. Here is a classic example of a fire dependant species, it's called *Agalinis Acuta*. It's the only federally listed endangered species, excuse me, plant species in New York State. And the reason it's endangered is that it's very dependant on fire and that form of natural disturbance for regeneration. And the US Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the Nature Conservancy and cooperation from Suffolk County Parks and Parkland is working to restore this important species.

A stellar example being the Dwarf Pine Plains in Westhampton near Exit 63 of the Sunrise Highway, that there's a significant amount of County parkland in the area, and probably one of the sections of the Pine Barrens that is most influenced by fire and has one of the highest returnables of fire in the area.

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The stunted trees are a result of a number of factors, but one of them is the frequent occurrence of fire during their formative years. And I should point out that the Dwarf Pine Plains is an example of a rare natural community that is found really only at one other place in the world, so we have one of the last good examples of this right here in Suffolk County.

Let me give another example of a fire adapted species, and that's the pitch pine. The slide that we have up there right now is a close-up picture of what is called a serotinus pinecone. Serotinus, that it's closed up tight, and there's a reason for that. Not all pine trees have this adaptation but, particularly in the Dwarf Pine Plains they have developed this closed cone to allow seeds deep within the cone to survive when wildfires burn through. The cone is heated and the seeds

are reduced, excuse me, released on a fresh bed of sand and germinate following fires. So it's an important example of the role fire plays in actually maintaining pine forests.

Another example would be, even another scale of detail would be that we have many species that are dependent on scrub oak, not the least of which on the right-hand part of your screen is the Coastal Buck Moth and on the left part is an egg mass. They rely both on scrub oak both for feeding and for reproduction. And the connection is that scrub oak in the absence of fire is gradually replaced and many of these rare species are gradually diminished as well.

I just wanted to show you some really stunning pictures. This is a picture from August of 1995 immediately following the Sunrise fires. It very well could be County parkland. There's a scattering of parcels in this area, Nature Conservancy some private and some parkland still, but this is immediately following the fire. And this was a fire of extreme intensity and certainly not one that would be replicated with prescribed fire, but it's an example of a natural fire.

And it's interesting to follow this time series of photos. If you look at the next picture, it was actually taken in October, and you would have thought that as you read in the newspapers following fires, that the forest has been destroyed, fire destroys "X" number of acres is what you most commonly read. I often take fault with that observation. Here you see just a matter of months later, scrub oaks sprouting from roots. And also very shortly after that, seedlings coming in as well.

And here in the next picture is five years later, that exact same spot, you can see well on the way to recovery and at the same time providing important early successional habitat that I was just talking about that Coastal Buck Moths and other rare species rely on.

This is just a graphic showing some of the decline. It's looking at a twelve thousand acre area that the Nature Conservancy has mapped in the Dwarf Pine Plains. And you can see-- and we took three points in time and reconstructed the vegetation.

In 1938 we had nearly twelve thousand acres of earlier successional scrub oak barrens, which includes the Dwarf Pine Plains. By 1960 that

had been nearly cut in half when we mapped it at that time. And just

before the Sunrise fire -- that's all represented by the red declining arrow lying on your screen. Just before the Sunrise fire, that had reached just about four thousand acres and was steadily declining. You can see the response to the Sunrise fire played an important part in rejuvenating and restoring some of that, that type of natural community.

The other line on that screen, the brown, is within the set area, an area of closed canopy pine forest. Also a very important ecosystem, but one that is much more common. The point being not that one is better than the other, but that it's important to have a balance of the different types of natural communities out there on the landscape and fire plays an important role in doing that.

So before I turn over to Nick to walk you through step, sort of step-by-step what is a prescribed burn, I just want to summarize some of the points that I have made here. I think that the first point I would like you to remember is that we always will have wildfires in Suffolk County, it's a naturally fire adapted community. Our fire suppression community is able to put out the smallest fires and it's very successful in protecting the residents of Suffolk County from larger fires, but there are certain fires that will occur periodically, like the Sunrise fire, that are beyond containment. Well, they're beyond suppression, they can be contained and life and property can be spared. And this is a fact of life that we need to live with and manage intelligently.

And then the two points that I have following that, just build on that point, and that is that I'd like you to remember that prescribed fire can be used to reduce the risk of wildfire by burning at a time that is chosen and fires can be controlled. And finally, prescribed fire can maintain these unique natural areas also.

So with that, I'd like to ask Nick to -- I don't know if there are any questions at this point or if you'd like to take them at the end.

CHAIRMAN FIELDS:

I just want to point out that Legislator Alden has to leave at 2:30, you said?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And we also need to vote on the agenda, on the bills. So I don't know whether you want to do something like really fast or you want to let

us go to the agenda, vote on it and then continue yours or -- it's your choice.

MR. GIBBONS:

I think that will work best for you, that second option.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So we'll go to the agenda. If Legislator Carpenter can come back in. And, Tim, may I ask if you would flip at least these lights on and

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then we'll go back to you, Nick.

Okay. We're going to go right to the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 1276 (P) To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. (Fisher)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I.R. 1276. To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. Do we have a motion to approve? I'll make a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

LEG. FOLEY:

I'll second for purposes of discussion, seconding for purposes of discussion. It's a resolution ready to be brought out of committee. I've spoken to the sponsor of the bill, I know it's been tabled for quite sometime. Do you know what the sponsor stands for?

LEG. ALDEN:

Before I make my motion to table, if somebody from the Parks Department can just explain to us, because last time we were waiting for some negotiations or some responses.

MR. RAPTOULIS:

Is this on? Steve Raptoulis, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Parks, representing Judy Gordon, Commissioner. I was here the last time and the discussion went that the Parks Department provided three consulting firms for interviewing here before this body and that you would make a selection or approve this to come out of committee to be approved at the general assembly.

The reason why we presented three is the former Commissioner Scully

felt because we go through an RFP process, that we have to bring people in, that that should be the same thing for this body.

LEG. ALDEN:

If I remember correctly, though, Commissioner Scully told us that there was some other types of issues that needed to be resolved before we go and hire some kind of consultant and spend more money.

MR. RAPTOULIS:

I'm not familiar with when he said that. He went through a --

LEG. ALDEN:

There's an owner of the property and there's a contention of where the damage occurred, who damaged it and I think there's ongoing negotiations as far as who's going --

MR. RAPTOULIS:

The consultant was going to make a determination on the damage to the property, independent consultant to say, okay, this was the damage and what have you.

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LEG. ALDEN:

We already have that. The Parks Department has already sent somebody out there to make an environmental assessment of what happened.

MR. RAPTOULIS:

Legislator Fisher was the one that sponsored this to bring this for an outside consulting. I know we had that through, I believe at that time it was the former real estate director had done that.

LEG. FOLEY:

Why don't we speak with the sponsor of the bill and just see.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All right. Legislator Alden made a motion to table, I'll second the motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled.

(VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1337 (P) Amending the 2002 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of Smith Point County Park. (County Executive)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1337. Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating

funds in connection with the restoration of Smith Point County Park.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

THE COURT: All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)

(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1397. (P) To establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket, New York. (Fisher)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1397. To establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket. Counsel, where are we on this, do you know?

MR. SABATINO:

This was tabled because it was supposed to go to the counsel on Environmental Quality on September 14th, that's the reason we tabled it the last time, I don't know --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I don't remember seeing it at CEQ.

MR. RAPTOULIS:

I believe that's going before them on the 16th.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Excuse me?

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MR. RAPTOULIS:

I believe it's going before them on October the 16th, the CEQ. It hasn't gone there yet.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Right it has not gone. All right.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1543 (P) Amending the 2002 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds for resurfacing of Smith Point County Park. (Towle)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
1543.

LEG. FOLEY:
Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:
Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
Second -- motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1644 (P) A local law to establish Code of Conduct for sports and recreational activities on Suffolk County property. (Fields)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
1644. I'm going to make a motion to approve.

LEG. FOLEY:
Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ALDEN:
Abstain.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Abstain.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:
Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:
All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1924 (P) Reappointing member of the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Richard Hilary). (Caracciolo)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1924. Reappoint -- no, Dick Hilary is not here. Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

He had told me he was going to be here so.

I.R. 1953 (P) Adopting Local Law No. 2002, authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs at Coindre Hall in Huntington and within county parks. (Cooper)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1953. Authorizing a motion to table --

LEG. FOLEY:

Which one, 1924? We didn't have a formal vote on 24.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Oh, motion to table.

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

CHAIRMAN FIELDS:

1953. Motion to table.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

I.R. 1982 (P) Adopting Local Law No. 2002, a Local Law to strengthen enforcement penalties for all terrain vehicles (ATV's). (Caracciolo)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

1982. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to ask Legislative Counsel if there's a, there was just a decision handed down that struck down I believe as unconstitutional some other jurisdiction's laws in the same manner that we're prescribing to do the forfeiture on this. Should we table this just for an analysis of that new law?

MR. SABATINO:

There was just a recent, you're right, there was a recent Second Circuit Court decision reversing the lower Court decision dealing with New York City's vehicle disclosure, I'm sorry, vehicle seizure law. And the essence of this seems to be to talk about trying to speed up the hearing process dealing with vehicles, so yes, it might be wise to table it only one cycle, because changes were made on recommendations from the Law Department, but they may not, they may require one more set of changes, I'm not certain. So the answer is yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled.

(VOTE: 4-0-0-1)(Absent: Lindsay) TABLED

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 2030. Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Birthright of Peconic. (County Executive)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. I.R. 2030. Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Birthright of Peconic.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion, what's --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Ways & Means is prime on this.

LEG. FOLEY:

Motion is deferred to prime.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Deferred to prime. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1)

(Absent: Lindsay) DEFERRED TO PRIME

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

2:30, how's that, Cameron?

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LEG. ALDEN:

That's perfect.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Sorry, Nick.

MR. GIBBONS:

No problem. Could you guys just hit the lights again?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Could somebody give him a microphone. Oh, you have one.

MR. GIBBONS:

Good afternoon, everybody. Nick Gibbons, Department of Parks,
Environmental Analyst.

Okay. Just picking up where Bill had left off, I'm going to talk a little bit about what a prescribed fire is, what we mean by it. Prescribed fire simply is the intentional use of fire under strictly defined conditions. We use prescribed fire to accomplish specific ecological and/or management objectives. And prescribed fire is often used to reduce forest fuels.

Some definitions. Prescription refers to the written conditions

mandating how and when a prescribed fire may be conducted. The prescribed fire is run by a burn boss. The burn boss has rigorous training and is fully accountable for any actions or results of the burn. And when we refer to fuels, we're talking about accumulated leaves, branches, etcetera, namely plant litter that fuels a fire and carries it.

There are two different objectives that are rarely and mutually exclusive with prescribed fire. One is ecological management, the other is fuel's management. I'll talk a little about ecological management goals with prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire is often a better tool than others, including mechanical treatments, because it helps to recycle nutrients in a natural way within the system. Prescribed fire also facilitates seed germination, improves wildlife habitat. It can be used to control invasive species. And we proposed prescribed fire in places where you might not expect it for that purpose, including wetlands.

It controls forest disease, it can be used to maintain endangered species, as Bill had alluded to earlier with the Sandplain garardia, and it maintains unique habitats.

Prescribed fire fuel's management falls into, typically falls into one of these three areas, and that's to reduce accumulated forest fuels largely as a result of fire suppression over the past fifty or a hundred years. It can reduce a threat to property damage or the loss of homes within the wildland or urban interface, and what we mean by that are suburban areas adjacent to park lands, for example.

And we can use prescribed fires as a tool to increase firefighter safety in fire suppression operations, in that the more we burn more often, the less likely that will burn in a wildland or a wildfire situation.

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This is another one of those many dramatic photos from the Sunrise fires. This is the Coast Guard housing off of County Road 31 in Westhampton. This is what we mean by wildland and urban interface. For those of you that are familiar with the area, the Dwarf Pine Plain runs literally up to these homes' backyards and without what we call defensible space, it makes managing the fire very tough.

The objective would be to in the future maintain a fire break around the community and ideally have a lot of what we call black areas, those that are regularly burned to help slow down fire and the rate of spread.

A prescription for -- is the game plan that's used to pull off one of

these burns and it takes into account a number of different factors. Primary is weather and the relative humidity, wind speed and direction and temperature all play a role in how or if we will do a burn on a particular day.

We set specific parameters that say if it's too dry, then we can't really effectively control the rate of spread to where we want it to be and we'll call the burn off. Similarly, and maybe more intuitively, is that if the humidity is too high, that the fire won't carry. The prescription also identifies the personnel and equipment necessary to conduct it in a safe and effective manner.

Smoke management, which as in Suffolk and non-containment areas is very much an issue that we need to address with every one of these prescriptions. We have a go/no go checklist, which is maybe two dozen questions, that if the answer to any of those is no, then we cannot and will not conduct the burn.

There are a series of permits and approvals necessary, at least at County parkland level, we need a state permit, we need CEQ approval. The measurable objectives of the burn are identified prior to the burn so that finally when we do the monitoring, we can Judge how effective the burn was and things we might change in the future.

Okay. The anatomy of prescribed fire. The pre-planning includes what we just went over, the prescription itself. There is crew coordination and communication. There's what amounts to a duty roster, everybody gets their assignment for the day and there's no switching off between maybe who's doing the igniting and who's doing some mop up work. You get your assignment and you're pretty much stuck with that for the day.

There's constant weather monitoring that occurs throughout the burn as conditions change, as is often the case, particularly in places like Montauk where humidity can change literally within a half an hour and you can see the results of that on the ground.

There's constant smoke monitoring. People are assigned to manage or monitor for the smoke throughout the day. And if we feel that it's making, it's causing an impact on neighboring areas, particularly roads and residences, we'll shut down the burn.

And finally, safety is very effectively and very prominently placed, and rightfully so, with all the planning that's involved in a prescribed burn and particularly with the way that it's carried out.

As I said earlier, smoke management is an issue that often limits our ability and the time of year or conditions in which we can do burns. What we look for are specific atmospheric conditions that increase the lift, and what you see here is ideal conditions for prescribed burn in that we have the smoke lifting in a column and the mixing heights are well above ground so that the impact to neighboring areas is almost eliminated entirely.

In some cases we have had prescribed burns that had to be shut down due to smoke issues. And most recently was the Sayville grassland burn down in Sayville, obviously, where we had smoke complaints from the neighboring area.

This is an example of what a prescribed burn looks like. This is at Teddy Roosevelt County Park in Montauk. You can see this, the person here in the NOMEX gear, fire retardant gear, is doing some line work, making sure that there is nothing smoldering carrying into this area down. And the bottom of the picture is obviously fuel for the fire, but the fire in this case is burning towards us into the black area that's already been burned, so it won't carry the fire beyond that black into these fuels. But we do have to watch out for what we call spotting, which are ambers that come out over and are carried by the smoke into fuels. And we constantly monitor for that as well.

And like any good natural resources presentation, we end with a sunset.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I was just saying what a beautiful photo.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Nick, we were just discussing a park that's in Legislator Carpenter's district, Gardiner Park. Would that be a park that you might -- I was saying it would be a good thing, because in case it ever did burn, it would burn, you know, into development areas, you know, housing areas and so forth. Do you think that that would -- two questions, do you think that would be a potential place that you would like to possibly see a prescribed burn, number one? And secondly, if that answer were positive, when you do do the burns, you don't take a whole park and burn it, you do segments of it, am I correct?

MR. GIBBONS:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

What was the answer to the first question, though?

MR. GIBBONS:

The answer to the first question is ideally yes. Essentially every property in County holdings could benefit from this type of management activity. In reality, we're pretty stretched as it is in terms of the burn program with the seven or so parks that we currently do it at. Gardiner is a great example of that wildland urban interface, both on the east and west side of the park. There are a lot of wetlands, not, you know, that extend --

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LEG. CARPENTER:

On the west side in particular there's a lot of wetlands, so I don't think there's an immediate danger to the residents, because they're across the canal and waterways that go up there.

MR. GIBBONS:

And we have creeks on both, both on the east and west side there. What's good about that is it's an effective and natural fire break. But you might notice that some of, you know, off that primary trail both to the east and west it is really choked out with things like cat brier and all, poison ivy, and prescribed fire would be appropriate to help knock that stuff back.

And then the second question as far as how much acreage we do in a park, no, we don't do all of it at one shot. And that's to give this theory of refugia for those animals, plants and animals that need an area that isn't being disturbed to carry on that population into the next or the newly burned area. So we rotate those areas that we do the treatments in.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But -- well, then I'm confused, because I thought that prescribed burns were for biodiversity. You don't want it all to be the same, do you?

MR. GIBBONS:

No, we don't. But what they do is they help to kick back plant succession a bit. So what we have as a result of a burn, depending on the type of burn we do, but taking Gardiner for an example, we might open up an area that has succeeded over many years into what might be best described as a brambles type of situation and open that up again to the fields that we once had at Gardiners when there was an agricultural use, particularly on that north end.

And then -- but we also do allow for recruitment from those areas that

aren't burned into the newly burned areas so that we can sustain and maintain those populations of plants and animals, but the end all result is an increase in diversity.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Anybody else have any questions?

LEG. CARPENTER:

No.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you.

MR. GIBBONS:

Thanks very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I thought I'd be somewhat, you know, bored maybe on the second time around, but it was, you made it a little different, so thank you.

MR. GIBBONS:

Appreciate that.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

It was interesting again.

MR. PATTERSON:

We added some new slides just for you and particularly the one on the pine cones.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yes. I noticed that you really went into detail.

MR. PATTERSON:

The point was an oversight last time.

MR. GIBBONS:

Thanks for your time.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you. Good to see you, Bob.

MR. CONKLIN:

Thank you, Angie. Good seeing you.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Bob, in his capacity with DEC, attends the monthly Fire Island Law and Safety Council meeting over in Fire Island. Good to see you here.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you, gentlemen. Motion to adjourn.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:40 P.M.)

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